

Your English Reading History: script

English I
Nigel Robb

Hello, In this video I'm going to talk to you about your English reading history.

I'm not talking about reading history books in English. Instead, I mean your personal history.

This is about getting you to think about your past experiences of reading in English, about things like what you've read in English, why you read it, and how you felt about it.

By taking time to think about these experiences, you will be able to better understand yourself as a reader.

That means understanding your motivation to read in English, the challenges you face, your strengths and your weaknesses.

And by understanding these things, you will be able to change them and improve them, and make yourself a better reader in English.

There are 3 steps involved in thinking about your English reading history, and I'll explain each one in this video. So let's get started.

The first step is simple: you just have to do some remembering. Well, maybe that won't be so simple for some of you.

You might not be able to recall some of the times you read in English, or you might not be able to remember all the details of your past reading experiences.

So, to help you out, I've got some questions that you can ask yourself.

These questions are prompts, to help you remember and understand your past experiences of reading in English.

So you need to get a pen and some paper, sit down somewhere quiet, and think about these questions while making some notes.

When answering the questions, try to make detailed notes about each memory, including what age you were and how you felt about the experience.

Question 1 is: what is your earliest memory of reading in English? Can you remember the first time you ever read in English? Maybe not, but what's the first time you read in English that you can recall?

The next question is: what is your strongest memory of reading in English? Your strongest memory is the one you first think of when you think about reading in English, the one that is easiest to remember. It might be strong because it was recent, or because it was a particularly good, or bad, experience.

Next, what is your worst memory of reading in English? Can you remember a time when you had an unpleasant experience reading in English? Maybe you were stressed out, or just didn't enjoy what you were reading?

Question 4 is about times you enjoyed reading in English. Have you ever read something in English and really enjoyed it? Maybe a Harry Potter novel or an article about one of your hobbies?

Question 5 is about times you did not enjoy reading in English. Have you ever read something in English and hated it? Maybe something you read for homework or an exam, perhaps?

The next question is about your most recent experience of reading in English. When was the last time you read in English?

Next, can you remember a time you felt pressure to read something in English? Have you ever been forced to read something in English that you didn't want to read? Again, this might have been for homework or an exam.

Question 8: what is the most difficult thing you can remember reading in English? What's the hardest text in English you've ever read? It would be good to also think about why it was difficult. Maybe there were long sentences, or lots of words you didn't understand.

And for question 9, what is the easiest thing you can remember reading in English? Remember, for all of these memories you should be making notes about things like your age, what you were reading, why you were reading it, etc.

Okay, question 10: can you remember a time you pretended to understand something written in English when you didn't really understand it? Sometimes, especially at school, we might pretend to understand something even though we don't really, maybe because we're embarrassed or shy. Has this ever happened to you with reading in English?

Next, Have you ever read a novel or story in English and felt a strong connection to one of the characters? Can you remember a time you read something and felt that you really understood or really liked the characters? Maybe you had similar experiences to them in your own life, or perhaps you really admired their bravery or kindness.

And finally, do you have any other interesting or strong memories of reading in English? If there's anything else you can recall about your English reading history that seems important or relevant, make a note of that too.

You might find that some of these questions are more useful than others. That's okay. The point is just to help you remember your past important experiences of reading in English. As long as you can do that, it doesn't matter if you can't think of an answer for some of the questions.

Once you've thought about the questions, the next step is to choose at least 5 interesting memories you have of reading in English. They could be interesting because they were good experiences or bad experiences, or because they were very strong memories.

Now take another sheet of paper, and for each experience, write down what age you were, what you read, why you read it, how you felt, and anything else that was interesting or memorable about the experience.

These experiences are the most important events in your English reading history. You might already be learning something interesting about yourself as a reader, like why you hate reading in English so much, what kind of topics you most enjoy reading about, or just how much you have learned about reading in English so far.

The final step is to create a timeline of your English reading history. You can do this on paper or use an app on your computer or smartphone.

First, draw a horizontal line across the page. The left side is the past and the right side is now.

Next, make a mark on the timeline for each of your memorable English reading experiences, and label the mark with the information you noted previously.

And that's it. Congratulations, you've finished reflecting on your English reading history, and created a timeline which shows your reading history in a way that is easy to understand and remember.

Hopefully, you've already learned something useful about yourself as a reader during the process.

For example, it might have helped you to understand why you find reading in English stressful, or how to better motivate yourself by finding things you enjoy reading, or even just reminded you of a favorite story that you'd like to read again.

Sharing and discussing your timeline with your English teacher and other students in your class will help you understand it even more.